

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system, comprising:

a central processor operable to transmit data packets and control packets;

5 a transmit/receive module operable to receive the data packets and the control packets and transmit the data packets and control packets to one of a plurality of terminal units;

10 a communication bus coupling the central processor to the transmit/receive module for communication of the data packets and the control packets; and

15 a plurality of terminal unit control modules coupled with the central processor, each terminal unit control module operable to control at least partially the operation of a respective one of the plurality of terminal units.

2. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:

20 a script module coupled with at least one of the terminal unit control modules; and

wherein the script module is operable to determine the content of the control packets.

25 3. The communication system of Claim 2, wherein the script module defines a plurality of states available to at least one of the terminal units, and the control packets include control information corresponding with at least one of the states.

4. The communication system of Claim 2, wherein the script module defines a plurality of subroutines available to at least one of the terminal units, and the control packets include control information corresponding with at least one of the subroutines.

5. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a terminal unit behavior script module coupled with at least one of the terminal unit control modules, the terminal unit behavior script module defining a plurality of subroutines available to at least one of the terminal units; and

wherein the control packets include information corresponding with at least one of the subroutines.

6. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a terminal unit subroutine library coupled with at least one of the terminal unit control modules, the terminal unit subroutine library defining a plurality of commands associated with subroutines available to at least one of the terminal units; and

wherein the control packets include information corresponding with at least one of the commands.

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7. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a terminal unit attribute repository coupled with the terminal unit control modules; and

5 wherein the attribute repository includes attributes associated with at least one of the terminal units.

8. The communication system of Claim 7, wherein the attributes include a speed dial telephone number, a memory  
10 key or a personal phone book entry.

9. The communication system of Claim 1, further comprising:

15 a voice/data module coupled with the central processor; and

wherein the voice/data module is operable to determine the content of the data packets.

20 10. The communication system of Claim 1, wherein the transmit/receive module is further operable to transmit data packets and control packets and the central processor is further operable to receive data packets and control packets transmitted by the transmit/receive module.

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11. A communication system, comprising:  
a central processor operable to transmit data  
packets and control packets;  
a transmit/receive module operable to receive the  
data packets and the control packets and transmit the  
data packets and control packets to one of a plurality of  
terminal units;  
a first communication bus coupling the central  
processor and the transmit receive module for  
communication of the data packets; and  
a second communication bus coupling the central  
processor and the transmit/receive module for  
communication of the control packets.

12. The communication system of Claim 11, further  
comprising a plurality of terminal unit control modules  
coupled with the central processor, each terminal unit  
control module operable to control the operation of a  
corresponding one of the terminal units.

13. The communication system of Claim 11, further  
comprising:

a script module coupled with at least one of the  
terminal unit control modules; and

wherein the script module is operable to determine  
the content of the control packets.

14. The communication system of Claim 13, wherein  
the script module defines a plurality of states available  
to at least one of the terminal units, and the control  
packets include control information corresponding with at  
least one of the states.

15. The communication system of Claim 13, wherein  
the script module defines a plurality of subroutines  
available to at least one of the terminal units, and the  
5 control packets include control information corresponding  
with at least one of the subroutines.

16. The communication system of Claim 11, further  
comprising:

10 a terminal unit behavior script module coupled with  
at least one of the terminal unit control modules, the  
terminal unit behavior script module defining a plurality  
of subroutines available to at least one of the terminal  
units; and

15 wherein the control packets include information  
corresponding with at least one of the subroutines.

17. The communication system of Claim 11, further  
comprising:

20 a terminal unit subroutine library coupled with at  
least one of the terminal unit control modules, the  
terminal unit subroutine library defining a plurality of  
commands associated with subroutines available to at  
least one of the terminal units; and

25 wherein the control packets include information  
corresponding with at least one of the commands.

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18. The communication system of Claim 11, further comprising:

a terminal unit attribute repository coupled with the terminal unit control modules; and

5 wherein the attribute repository includes attributes associated with at least one of the terminal units.

19. The communication system of Claim 18, wherein the attributes include a speed dial telephone number, a  
10 memory key or a personal phone book entry.

20. The communication system of Claim 11, further comprising:

15 a voice/data module coupled with the central processor; and

wherein the voice/data module is operable to determine the content of the data packets.

21. The communication system of Claim 11, wherein  
20 the transmit/receive module is further operable to transmit data packets and control packets and the central processor is further operable to receive data packets and control packets transmitted by the transmit/receive module.

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22. A terminal unit, comprising:

a printed circuit board;

5 a processor coupled with the printed circuit board,  
the processor operable to receive control packets from  
one of a plurality of terminal unit control modules  
associated with a communication system.

10 23. The terminal unit of Claim 22, wherein the  
processor is further operable to receive data packets from  
the communication system.

15 24. The terminal unit of Claim 22, further  
comprising a command interpreter coupled with the  
processor, the command interpreter operable to receive  
commands associated with the control packets, and to  
control hardware components of the terminal unit.

20 25. The terminal unit of Claim 22, further  
comprising:

a compressor/decompressor module coupled with the  
processor and operable to receive data packets from the  
processor and convert the data packets into voice  
packets;

25 a codec coupled with the compressor/decompressor,  
the codec operable to receive voice packets from the  
compressor/decompressor for transmission to a speaker  
associated with the terminal unit.

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26. A method, comprising:

transmitting first control packets from a first  
terminal unit control module to a transmit/receive  
module;

transmitting second control packets from a second  
terminal unit control module to the transmit/receive  
module;

the first and second terminal unit control modules  
operable to control at least partially the operation of  
first and second terminal units, respectively; and

transmitting data packets from a processor to the  
transmit/receive module.

27. The method of Claim 26, further comprising  
transmitting at least a portion of the control packets  
from the transmit/receive module to the first terminal  
unit.

28. The method of Claim 26, wherein the first and  
second control packets are transmitted from the first and  
second terminal unit control modules to the  
transmit/receive module using a first communications bus,  
and the data packets are transferred from the processor to  
the transmit/receive module using a second communications  
bus.

29. The method of Claim 26, further comprising  
transmitting information regarding the content of the  
first control packets from a script module to the first  
terminal unit control module.

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30. The method of Claim 29, further comprising transmitting terminal unit subroutine identifiers from a terminal unit behavior script database to the script module.

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31. The method of Claim 29, further comprising transmitting at least one subroutine from a terminal unit subroutine module to the script module.

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32. The method of Claim 26, further comprising:  
coupling a terminal unit attribute repository to the processor; and

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storing information regarding attributes of the first terminal unit at the terminal unit attribute repository.

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33. A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program operable to:

transmit first control packets from a first terminal unit control module to a transmit/receive module;

5 transmit second control packets from a second terminal unit control module to the transmit/receive module;

the first and second terminal unit control modules operable to control at least partially the operation of first and second terminal units, respectively; and

10 transmit data packets from a processor to the transmit/receive module.

34. The computer readable medium of Claim 33, wherein the computer program is further operable to transmit at least a portion of the control packets from the transmit/receive module to the first terminal unit.

35. The computer readable medium of Claim 33, wherein the computer program is further operable to transmit information regarding the content of the first control packets from a script module to the first terminal unit control module.

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36. A system, comprising:

means for transmitting first control packets from a first terminal unit control module to a transmit/receive module;

5 means for transmitting second control packets from a second terminal unit control module to the transmit/receive module;

the first and second terminal unit control modules operable to control at least partially the operation of first and second terminal units, respectively; and

10 means for transmitting data packets from a processor to the transmit/receive module.

37. The system of Claim 36, further comprising means for transmitting at least a portion of the control packets from the transmit/receive module to the first terminal unit.

38. The system of Claim 36, further comprising means for transmitting information regarding the content of the first control packets from a script module to the first terminal unit control module.

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